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FORMER MONROE TAX PREPARER INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY

Loss to the government was approximately \$80,000

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **RENEE L. MINOR**, a former tax preparer in the Monroe area, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Shreveport on 19 counts of assisting in the preparation of false federal income tax return. The indictment was returned in September and **MINOR** was arrested today by federal agents. **MINOR** made her initial appearance today in United States District Court in Monroe and is scheduled to be arraigned October 25, 2006 at 10 a.m.

The indictment alleges that in January and February of 2005, **MINOR**, age 26, of Monroe, Louisiana, assisted in the preparation of 19 individual federal income tax returns for calendar year 2004 which were false and fraudulent. Specifically, the indictment alleges that the returns fraudulently claimed tax refunds in excess of the amount the taxpayers were entitled to receive. The loss to the government was approximately \$80,000.

If convicted, **MINOR** faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, on each count.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Martha J. Levardsen.

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